THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Uruguay Round Negotiations have not yet reached the final phase. Government is seeking charges in certain areas of the Dunkel Text to safeguard our interests.

Anti-dumping restrictions imposed by USA

*265 SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Government has imposed anti-dumping restriction on the import of certain Indian goods, including stainless steel items, after President Clinton has taken over his new office as US President;

(b) if so, what are the Indian goods on which such import restrictions have been imposed by US Government at the end of January, 1993; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian products subject to anti-dumping duties in the U.S. at present are:

(i) Steel pipes and tubes since 12th May, 1986.

(ii) Sulfanilic acid since 15th October, 1992.

(iii) Sulphur dyes since 19th October, 1992.

Anti-dumping investigations have also been initiated very recently on imports of stainless steel flange from India and Taiwan, and steel wire rods from India, Brazil and France.

Anti-dumping actions are directed at the export pricing practices of individual companies. When anti-dumping actions are taken by governments of importing countries, they have to be carried out in accordance with the multilaterally agreed disciplines on the subject incorporated in the Anti-dumping Code of GATT.

Trade Agreements with Russia

*266. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreements was signed with Russia, during the recent visit of the Russian President Boris Yetsin;

(b) if so, the terms thereof; and

(c) what is the estimated balance of trade, indicating imports from and exports to Russia, during 1992-93, so far and the contemplated volume of trade, both ways, during the ensuing year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No Sir. A framework bilateral trade agreement with Russia valid for a period of five years

was signed only last summer, on May 4, 1992. However, during the recent visit, four letters were exchanged incorporating mutual understanding reached with the Russian side on certain specific aspects of trade and trade related matters. These pertain to (i) counter trade and other internationally recognised forms of business cooperation (ii) modality of repayment by India of State credits granted by the erstwhile Soviet Union through purchase by Russia of permissible goods and services from India, (iii) repayment by Russia of the technical credit granted by India to the erstwhile Soviet Union and the Russian Federation, payments to Indian exporters for exports to Russia in 1992 where payments have not been received, extended facility of utilisation by Russia of the technical credit granted by India in 1992, and (iv) certain modalities regarding repayment for deliveries from the USSR of machinery and equipment on deferred payment terms.

(c) Disaggregated figures for trade with the CIS/former USSR Republics are not yet being published by the DGCI&S. The aggregate trade figures with all CIS Republics, of which a very large part pertains to Russia, for the period April-November, 1992, are as below:

[Source: DGCI&S: (figures in crores rupees]

Exports to CIS	1066.39
Imports from CIS . . .	447.68
Balance of Trade . . .	(+)618.71

While it is estimated that with the understanding having been reached in several areas, the mutual trade is likely to go up, it is difficult to make a true estimate of the actual volume.

Child Labour as bonded Labour

*267. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the exploitation of children as bonded labour in a number of organised industries in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the number of raids conducted during the last year to free these children out of such bondages and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, all forms of bonded labour stand abolished. However, last year, some instances of employment of children as bonded labourers have been reported by a few State Governments, who released the children from bondage and restored them to their parents. Since September, 1992, by a special drive undertaken by Government of U.P., as many as 1550 inspections were made and 20 children working as bonded labourers were released and restored to their parents. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the State Government are the appropriate authorities for enforcement of the provisions in case of bonded labour including bonded child labour.

Transprtation and theft of coal in Western Coalfields Limited

*2268. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
DR. SHRI KANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of money spent annually by the Western Coalfields Limited on the transportation of coal;